

## Calendar No. 405

105<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION**H. CON. RES. 131****[Report No. 105–209]**

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 1998

Received and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation

JUNE 10, 1998

Reported by Mr. MCCAIN, with an amendment and an amendment to the  
preamble

[Strike the preamble and all after the resolving clause and insert the parts printed in italic]

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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Acknowledging 1998 as the International Year of the Ocean  
and expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the  
ocean.

Whereas the ocean, which comprises nearly three-quarters of  
the Earth's surface, sustains a large part of the Earth's  
biodiversity, provides an important source of food, and  
interacts with and affects global weather and climate;

Whereas the ocean is critical to national security, is the com-  
mon means of transportation among coastal nations, and  
carries 95 percent of the United States foreign trade;

Whereas the ocean and sea floor contain vast energy and mineral resources that are critical to the economy of the United States and the world;

Whereas ocean resources are limited and susceptible to change as a direct and indirect result of human activities; and such changes can impact the ability of the ocean to provide the benefits upon which the Nation depends;

Whereas the vast majority of the deep ocean is unexplored and unknown; and the ocean is truly the last frontier on Earth for science and civilization;

Whereas there exists significant promise for the development of new ocean technologies for stewardship of ocean resources that will contribute to the economy through business and manufacturing innovations and the creation of new jobs;

Whereas it has been 30 years since the Commission on Marine Science, Engineering, and Resources (popularly known as the Stratton Commission) met to examine the state of the United States ocean policy and issued recommendations that led to the present Federal structure for oceanography and marine resource management; and

Whereas 1998 has been declared the International Year of the Ocean; and in order to observe such celebration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other Federal agencies, in cooperation with organizations concerned with ocean science and marine resources, have resolved to promote exploration, utilization, conservation, and public awareness of the ocean: Now, therefore, be it

*Whereas the ocean, which comprises nearly three quarters of the Earth's surface, sustains a large part of the Earth's biodiversity, provides an important source of*

*food, and interacts with and affects global weather and climate;*

*Whereas the ocean is critical to national security, is the common means of transportation among coastal nations, and carries 95 percent of the United States foreign trade;*

*Whereas the ocean and sea floor contain vast energy and mineral resources that are critical to the economy of the United States and the world;*

*Whereas ocean resources are limited and susceptible to change as a direct and indirect result of human activities, and such changes can impact the ability of the ocean to provide the benefits upon which the Nation depends;*

*Whereas the vast majority of the deep ocean is unexplored and unknown, and the ocean is truly the last frontier on Earth for science and civilization;*

*Whereas there exists significant promise for the development of new ocean technologies for stewardship of ocean resources that will contribute to the economy through business and manufacturing innovations and the creation of new jobs;*

*Whereas any nation's use or misuse of ocean resources has effects far beyond that nation's borders;*

*Whereas it has been 30 years since the Commission on Marine Science, Engineering, and Resources (popularly known as the Stratton Commission) met to examine the state of United States ocean policy and issued recommendations that led to the present Federal structure for oceanography and marine resources management;*

*Whereas recent public opinion polls indicate that a large majority of Americans consider the condition of the oceans to be important, and that a large majority rate the overall health of the oceans negatively; and*

*Whereas the United Nations has declared 1998 to be the International Year of the Ocean, and in order to observe this occasion, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other Federal agencies, in cooperation with organizations concerned with ocean science and marine resources, have resolved to promote exploration, utilization, conservation, and public awareness of the ocean: Now, therefore, be it*

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—*

3           ~~(1) the ocean is of paramount importance to~~  
4       ~~the economic future, environmental quality, and na-~~  
5       ~~tional security of the United States;~~

6           ~~(2) the United States has a responsibility to ex-~~  
7       ~~ercise and promote comprehensive stewardship of the~~  
8       ~~ocean and the living marine resources it contains;~~  
9       ~~and~~

10          ~~(3) Federal agencies are encouraged to take ad-~~  
11       ~~vantage of the United States and international focus~~  
12       ~~on the oceans in 1998, to—~~

13           ~~(A) review United States oceanography~~  
14       ~~and marine resource management policies and~~  
15       ~~programs;~~

1           ~~(B) identify opportunities to streamline,~~  
 2           ~~better direct, and increase interagency coopera-~~  
 3           ~~tion in oceanographic research and marine re-~~  
 4           ~~source management policies and programs; and~~

5           ~~(C) develop scientific, educational, and re-~~  
 6           ~~source management programs which will ad-~~  
 7           ~~vance the exploration of the ocean and the sus-~~  
 8           ~~tainable use of ocean resources.~~

9   *That it is the sense of the Congress that—*

10           *(1) the ocean is of paramount importance to the*  
 11           *economic future, environmental quality, and national*  
 12           *security of the United States;*

13           *(2) the United States has a responsibility to ex-*  
 14           *ercise and promote comprehensive stewardship of the*  
 15           *ocean and the living marine resources it contains;*  
 16           *and*

17           *(3) Federal agencies are encouraged to take ad-*  
 18           *vantage of the International Year of the Ocean in*  
 19           *1998, to—*

20           *(A) review United States oceanography and*  
 21           *marine resource management policies and pro-*  
 22           *grams;*

23           *(B) identify opportunities to streamline,*  
 24           *better direct, and increase interagency coopera-*

tion in oceanographic research and marine resource management policies and programs;

(C) identify opportunities to further cooperation between the United States and other nations to enhance oceanographic research and exploration, and to strengthen international marine resource conservation policies and programs;

(D) in cooperation with academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and industry develop scientific, educational, and resource management programs which will advance the exploration of the ocean, the conservation of marine habitats and species, and the sustainable use of ocean resources; and

(E) encourage participation in State, local, and private initiatives and programs that use education and the arts to increase public awareness of the ocean and the many benefits that it provides, and to foster understanding of the need to conserve and sustainably manage ocean resources.

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